

**Department of Homeland Security
Information Analysis and Infrastructure
Protection
Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report
for 16 July 2003**

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)
www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The New York Times reports some Internet chat groups are playing a growing role as vehicles for teaching online credit card fraud. (See item [6](#))
- The Associated Press reports Cold War–era sirens may be revived as terrorism warnings, with cities such as Oklahoma City, Chicago and Dallas upgrading their outdoor warning systems with a type of siren that can carry voice announcements. (See item [23](#))
- The Associated Press reports Interpol chief warns that the world's law enforcement agencies still are ill–equipped to block a bioterrorist attack, and governments and research institutions need to keep better track of pathogens that can be turned into weapons. (See item [29](#))

DHS/IAIP Update Fast Jump

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: [Physical](#): Elevated, [Cyber](#): Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES–ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *July 15, Platts Global Energy News* — High energy costs pose risk to U.S. economy. The rebound in energy costs is one of the downside risks to the business outlook, the Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said in his semi–annual monetary policy report to Congress Tuesday. "Oil prices, after dropping sharply in March on news that the Iraqi oil fields had been secured, have climbed back above \$30/bbl as market expectations for a quick return of Iraqi production appear to have been overly optimistic given the current security situation," Greenspan said. He reiterated concerns about the rise in natural gas prices, particularly since "natural gas accounts for a substantial portion of total unit energy costs of production among non–financial, non–energy producing firms." While stating that

natural gas prices had eased recently, the futures curve projects prices double the levels contemplated when much of gas—using capital stock was put in place. Greenspan saw additional downside risks from weak economic activity with the US' trading partners.

Source: <http://www.platts.com/stories/oil1.html>

2. *July 15, ABCNEWS.com* — **Power and transmission outages strain California's power supply. California's electricity supplies were stretched Monday by three plant outages and a transmission glitch that occurred when a logging truck drove under a high-voltage power line. About 1,500 megawatts of power was lost Sunday night when two Northern California power plants tripped off-line,** said Stephanie McCorkle, spokeswoman for the Independent System Operator, the manager of the state's electricity grid. A 750-megawatt power plant in Southern California went off-line a few hours later, McCorkle said. **The outages came on a day when peak electricity use is expected to top 41,500 megawatts because of hot weather throughout the state, she said. A megawatt is approximately enough power for 750 homes.** The state lost some imported power early Monday Bonneville Power Authority officials reduced the amount of power traveling across a major transmission line near the Oregon border after a logging truck drove under the line with its boom raised.

Source: http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/news/071403_nw_power_supply.html

3. *July 14, The Patriot-News (Harrisburg, PA)* — **Pennsylvania's coal waste is converted to low-cost fuel.** The anthracite region of northeastern Pennsylvania has unsightly black piles of waste coal called culm banks, a legacy of the state's huge, unregulated coal industry in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. However, to David Martin, president of the Anthracite Region Independent Power Producers Association and manager of Gilberton Power Co., the culm banks something else: a valuable resource. **He and his colleagues in the industry are using culm as a free or low-cost fuel to produce electricity. The brown, compactable, sand-like ash that remains — as much as 60 percent to 70 percent of what is burned — is being used to back fill some of the numerous abandoned mine hazards that dot the region.** "There's a lot of it," Martin said of culm. "A billion tons here in Pennsylvania. It contains appreciable amounts of carbon and is suitable for use as fuel in [fluidized-bed] boilers. We now have the technology that we can use it." **In both economic and environmental terms, burning culm is a win-win proposition, according to advocates.** Jobs are created in a high-unemployment area, culm piles are removed, electricity is produced and dangerous strip pits, crop falls and mine shafts that the state Department of Environmental Protection might never have the funds to address otherwise get back filled at no cost to the taxpayers.

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3987602

4. *July 14, Las Vegas Review – Journal* — **Bill boosts interim storage at Yucca Mountain. New legislation moving through the U.S. House revives a controversial plan for the Energy Department to begin storing nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain years before the completion of an underground repository.** Federal law forbids an interim repository in Nevada, and President Clinton vetoed a bill in 2000 that aimed to speed delivery of nuclear waste to the Yucca site before underground storage could be completed. **But a bill to be considered by the House Appropriations Committee next week says the landscape has changed since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and since Congress designated Nevada for nuclear waste burial last year.** Highly radioactive spent fuel stored in 39 states is now at greater risk and should be moved to "a centralized storage facility, located at the Yucca

Mountain repository site, at the earliest possible date," according to a copy of the bill report obtained Friday. The provisions are part of a 2004 spending bill for Energy Department programs. It sets an aggressive path for the Yucca Mountain Project, setting aside \$765 million in spending for next year, 29 percent more than the Bush administration requested.

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3988517

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Chemical Sector

5. *July 14, U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board* — **Lightning causes chemical release at refinery. An afternoon thunderstorm caused the release of sulfur at an oil refinery in Chalmette, LA, on Friday, July 10**, officials said. Lightning hit Chalmette Refining LLC at about 3:30 p.m., shutting down its sulfur recovery unit. That caused flaring and a visible haze, according to a recording on the refinery's telephone Friday evening. **St. Bernard Fire Chief Thomas Stone said that his department was notified about the release, but wasn't aware of the vapor cloud that reached Poydras, parts of east Plaquemines, the Bywater and English Turn until residents in those areas started calling at 5:30 p.m. The cloud appeared as if it were smoke from a fire. "It's amazing how far the cloud traveled," Stone said. The chemical release, which was a mixture that included sulfur dioxide, could be dangerous in concentrated amounts, Stone said. "I walked out of the door and it hit me in the face," said Mary Winter, who lives in English Turn. She said she called St. Bernard authorities and that they told her to stay inside. Refinery officials could not be reached for comment Friday night.**

Source: http://www.chemsafety.gov/circ/post.cfm?incident_id=6637

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *July 14, New York Times* — **Internet chat seen as tool to teach theft of credit cards.** On Tuesday morning, one Internet chat group called #ccpower was bustling. A user there was selling credit card numbers, obtained illegally online, for 50 cents to \$1 each, another was accusing other sellers of stolen credit card numbers of cheating, and yet another user wanted lessons on cracking into online sites containing credit card information. **Internet chat groups, particularly those using a format called Internet relay chat, or I.R.C., now play an important and growing role in online credit card fraud, according to a report released last week by a group of Internet security experts who form the Honeynet Project. The project sets up computer systems called honeynets that are intended to be easy to infiltrate in order to monitor and record how hackers work.** Online credit card fraud has generally been carried out by hackers operating on their own, without much organization or automation of their

fraud schemes, the group says. But that appears to be changing. Chat channels can make it possible for large groups of people to share tactics for criminal activity. The channels also allow access to programs users have placed there that automate the tasks of credit card fraud like checking a stolen card number's validity or systematically searching for Web sites that have card credit information and are vulnerable to attacks.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/07/14/technology/14NET.html>

7. *July 13, CNN* — **Printers, scanners aid counterfeiters.** Crooks are using the latest digital printers to make fake Canadian banknotes, focusing on a new range of low-denomination notes that were supposed to be tougher than ever to copy, police and experts say. **Central bank figures show that the number of fake five and 10 Canadian dollar bills seized by banks and police nearly tripled in 2002 from 2001 -- when Canada issued new notes with high-tech security features like embossed words and iridescent maple leaves that change colors as the notes are tilted.** "This is a case of some high school kids with a computer programmed to print out fives and tens," said Tom Naylor, a specialist in the economics of crime at McGill University. "More criminals of opportunity have taken advantage of available technology and people receiving currency are not taking the time to verify that currency when they receive it," said Royal Canadian Mounted Police spokesman Paul Marsh. **Patricia Segre, from the Bank of Canada, said many retailers do not know what to look for on the new banknotes to distinguish them from false ones, and she said the bank offers free seminars to show businesses the new security features.**

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/TECH/ptech/07/13/canada.banknotes.re ut/index.html>

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Transportation Sector

8. *July 15, Pacific Business News* — **Shakeup at US Airways.** United Airlines codeshare partner US Airways, whose route network has the potential to feed more U.S. East visitors to Hawaii, has announced a downsizing shuffle of its senior management. "We are making sure that we continue to have one of the leanest management teams in the industry," CEO David Seigel said Tuesday, "with today's announcement reflecting a further reduction." US Airways is United's principal domestic codeshare partner and funnels traffic to Chicago, Washington, D.C., and other cities where United has a lot of service to the West Coast.

Source: <http://pacific.bizjournals.com/pacific/stories/2003/07/14/daily14.html>

9. *July 14, Transportation Security Administration* — **Boarding passes required at the checkpoint for Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, starting on Tuesday, July 15, 2003 .** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced that starting Tuesday, July 15, Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, **will be participating in TSA's "Selectee Checkpoint" program at all checkpoints.** The Selectee Checkpoint program enhances security and convenience by transferring the screening of selectees from aircraft boarding gates to security checkpoints where screening equipment and personnel are concentrated. Currently, 261 airports are participating in this program. **At these 261 airports, passengers will need to have their boarding passes in hand before they reach the security checkpoint. E-ticket receipts, itineraries and vouchers will no longer provide access through the checkpoints, and boarding passes will no longer be issued at the gates.**

Boarding passes may be obtained on most airline websites, at ticket counters, through airline computer kiosks, or at most skycap curbside stations. **In addition to a boarding pass, passengers must show a valid government issued photo ID, such as a driver's license or passport at the checkpoint.**

Source: <http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=44&content=594>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

10. *July 14, Federal Computer Week* — **DHS tests portal for tracking cargo. In an effort to keep deadly material out of the country, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has launched a Web portal that shippers will use to disclose what they are importing before they even dock at a U.S. port.** The goal is to find out what is coming into the country as early as possible, officials said. **The portal will be tested by 41 companies.** It is part of the former Customs Service modernization program known as the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE). The portal includes a log of significant activity and other capabilities that will make it easier for customs officials to know "what's coming and when it's coming," said Charles Armstrong, executive director of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection's Modernization Office. "This lays out a foundation for ACE over the long run, and it's the first time we've opened up our systems so that the trading public can come in and look at their own data and interact with us in real time," Armstrong said. **The portal will allow shipping companies to file manifests electronically and update them around the clock so inspectors always have the most recent information on cargo headed for U.S. ports.** DHS officials will decide in September whether the portal will become fully operational or if the pilot will be extended, Armstrong said.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/0714/news-cargo-07-14-03.asp>

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Agriculture Sector

11. *July 15, High Plains Journal* — **Japan still talking beef tariff hike. The U.S. cattle industry is faced with the possibility that Japan may decide to raise its tariffs to a protective level of 50 percent.** Japanese Agriculture Minister Yoshiyuki Kamei, in the U.S. last week for consultations with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Ann Veneman, said the country was considering the tariffs in light of a substantial increase in U.S. beef imports over year ago levels. **After speaking with the Japanese minister, Veneman said she had urged him to reconsider the tariffs, and she also left open the possibility of retaliation.** Japan's tariff laws provide that a 38.5 percent tariff on beef imports can rise to 50 percent when the volume of imports grows to 17 times the amount in the corresponding period of the previous year. Tokyo reportedly plans to raise tariffs on August 1, if import data for April–June 2003, expected to be released later this month, indicate a need for curbing beef imports.

Source: <http://www.hpj.com/testnewstable.cfm?type=story&sid=9301>

12.

July 14, Associated Press — **House defeats ban on sale of downed animals.** The House Monday defeated an amendment that would have banned the sale of livestock so sick or injured they must be dragged to market, mostly dairy cows that are slaughtered for meat after they can no longer produce milk. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates 130,000 downed animals are brought to slaughterhouses every year. **Representative Gary Ackerman said the downed animals pose a public health risk, noting that the Canadian cow infected with mad cow disease was a downer. But opponents said that if anything, banning the sale of downed animals would prevent USDA inspectors from detecting possible cases because the animals would never reach the slaughterhouse for inspection.** "You will drive this whole process literally underground," argued Representative Bob Goodlatte who chairs the Agriculture Committee. "The animals will be buried on the farm, and perhaps put in the food chain illegitimately."

Source: http://www.sunherald.com/mld/sunherald/news/breaking_news/63_03429.htm

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Food Sector

13. *July 15, Financial Times* — **Food and drink groups unhappy with new U.S. demands.** U.S. moves to strengthen its existing bioterrorism legislation by placing stringent requirements on companies exporting food and drink products to the U.S. could worsen further the already sour trade relations between Washington and the European Union (EU). The U.S. Bioterrorism Act was signed into law in June last year. Now the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is working on implementation proposals which would force European companies to register their facilities with the FDA, give prior notice of any shipment to the U.S., and provide elaborate records of the products used during the manufacturing process. **Industry representatives have voiced fears that the draft legislation would impose crippling costs on food and drink exporters, threatening in particular the thousands of small and medium businesses that form the backbone of Europe's food industry.** Branding the measures as "unacceptable", the European beer, wine, and spirits trade bodies estimate that in "in order to comply fully with the record-keeping proposals, a large company would have to employ one to two extra full-time persons and this would cost some \$113,000 per year." **Producers are also worried that the legislation would force them to reveal sensitive commercial information regarding the recipes of their products.**

Source: <http://news.ft.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=FT.com/StoryFT/FullStory&c=StoryFT&cid=1057562395379>

14. *July 15, Associated Press* — **House moves to block new meat labels.** The House has voted to prohibit the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) from requiring meatpackers and grocers to inform consumers whether hamburger, sausage, and other beef, lamb, and pork products came from abroad. The vote Monday would effectively exempt meat products from the country-of-origin labels that Congress last year ordered for a wide variety of foods, including fish, fruits, and vegetables. The House Appropriations Committee put language in the bill forbidding the administration from implementing the labeling law. Monday's 208-193 vote was to reject the amendment to preserve it. The House passed the overall bill later on a 347-64 vote. **Representative Henry Bonilla said the labels would cost grocery stores, meatpackers, and others processors at least \$1.9 billion the first year,**

based on preliminary USDA estimates. He predicted consumers would experience "sticker shock" once the costs were passed through.

Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/business/6304896.htm>

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Water Sector

15. *July 14, Waste News* — EPA proposes stiffer rules to protect water. The U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed rules that would require drinking water systems to monitor for increased protection against cryptosporidium, a widespread waterborne pathogen that is resistant to common disinfectants like chlorine.

Cryptosporidium causes gastrointestinal illness and in certain cases can lead to death. New data indicate that most public water systems provide insufficient treatment, according to the EPA.

The Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule and the Stage 2 Disinfection

Byproduct Rule are required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. **The first rule would require**

additional water treatment requirements, reduce cases of cryptosporidiosis by more than one million per year, and cost between \$73.5 million and \$111 million annually, according to the EPA. The second rule requires better monitoring for byproducts formed during chemical disinfection of water supplies to protect customers from increased risks of bladder, rectal, and colon cancer. The annual costs of the Stage 2 rule are estimated at \$54.3 million to \$63.9 million annually.

Source: <http://www.wastenews.com/headlines2.html?id=1058216230>

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Public Health Sector

16. *July 15, Age* — Asia bracing for SARS return. Asia is bracing for the possibility of a further Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak when the northern hemisphere winter returns later this year. While the World Health Organisation removed Taiwan, the last SARS hot spot, from its global list of affected areas earlier this month, people remain concerned it may resurface upon winter's return. In Singapore, where 32 people died out of 206 SARS cases, residents are worried the air-borne virus may return in the traditionally sick-inducing colder months of winter. Singapore's Minister of State (Health and Environment) Balaji Sadasivan said all Asian countries would be particularly vigilant in coming months. "As we go into winter in the northern hemisphere, we will be more cautious of people coming from countries with winter and with exposure to SARS," Balaji said. "So essentially that would be in two regions, Canada and China and in particular Toronto and Beijing." But Balaji said the experience gained from the outbreak would prevent SARS from creating as much of a problem in the future. Singapore will indefinitely maintain its stringent monitoring measures, including thermal screening of all arriving and departing passengers through Changi Airport and its massive sea port.

Source: <http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2003/07/15/1058034988016.html>

17.

July 14, Associated Press — Reports of HIV "superinfection" increase. Evidence is growing that "superinfection" with more than one strain of HIV may be more common than previously thought, which could complicate efforts to make a vaccine, experts said Monday. Scientists reported three new cases of HIV–infected people who initially were doing well without drugs but became sick years later after contracting a second strain of the AIDS virus. "That means that although you can mount an adequate response against one virus, the body still does not have the capability to protect you against new infection, which tells you that the development of a vaccine is going to be even more of a challenge," said Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. In another study, Harold Burger, of Albany Medical College, said genetic tests on a superinfected woman showed the two viruses mixed and produced a hybrid that took over from the original virus. Although the development of a hybrid was not surprising, scientists estimate there are 14 mixed strains circulating, the report is the first documented case of two HIV strains, or subtypes, combining in one person to form a third strain.

Source: <http://www.tuscaloosanews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20030714/API/307140912&cachetime=5>

18. *July 14, Reuters* — Mexico declares West Nile emergency. The mosquito–borne West Nile virus, which has killed hundreds of people in the U.S. since appearing in 1999, has reached Mexico and is spreading fast, health officials said on Monday. The government announced a state of emergency in the fight against West Nile virus after a campaign to vaccinate horses failed to halt the spread of the disease, discovered in the state of Tabasco on May 16. The Mexican government's official gazette said West Nile has since appeared in animals in the states of Chihuahua, Tamaulipas, Coahuila, Veracruz, Quintana Roo, and Yucatan. There have been no human cases of West Nile reported in Mexico this year. Javier Trujillo, head of Mexico's animal health commission, warned of a threat to public health in Mexico, which shares a 2,000–mile border with the U.S. Mexico reported one death from West Nile virus in August 2002, but said the victim caught the illness during a vacation in the U.S. Mexican authorities have asked horse owners to vaccinate their animals and report any suspected cases of West Nile immediately. Last year, West Nile infected more than 4,000 people in 44 U.S. states, killing 284 people, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&storyID=3087909>

19. *July 14, Reuters* — Weakened smallpox vaccine is safer, research shows. Two weakened versions of the smallpox vaccine seem to work safely and are just as effective as the existing vaccine, considered the most dangerous vaccine in current use, researchers said on Monday. And the study, done in mice, suggests the vaccines could be given through the nose, instead of the current, messy immunization that involves up to 15 little scratches on the arm, the researchers said. The researchers, led by Igor Belyakov of the National Cancer Institute, did the first head–to–head comparison of the old DryVax vaccine with another, called Modified Vaccine Ankara or MVA and a third, genetically weakened vaccine called ALVAC. When widely used in the 1960s, DryVax killed between one and two in every million people immunized and caused severe reactions in up to 52 per million. DryVax uses a live relative of the smallpox virus, called vaccinia. MVA and ALVAC use a weakened form of the virus. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&storyID=3087087>

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Government Sector

20. *July 15, Federal Bureau of Investigation* — **FBI Director Mueller announces new executive appointment.** FBI Director Robert S. Mueller, III, announced a selection on Tuesday for the top executive position of the Washington, DC Field Office. **Michael A. Mason, Assistant Director in Charge, Washington Field Office: Mason was sworn in as a Special Agent of the FBI in 1985.** He has served in the New Haven, Washington, DC, Albany, Buffalo, and Sacramento Divisions, and he has investigated a wide variety of crimes throughout his career, to include narcotics violations, violent crimes, white-collar crimes and public corruption. He has also acted in an undercover capacity and on SWAT teams, and he has headed up large operations at FBI Headquarters.
Source: <http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel03/mueller071503.htm>
21. *July 14, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement* — **All ten of ICE's original top ten most wanted fugitives accounted. Nine criminal aliens on the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) newly created Top Ten Most Wanted criminal aliens program have been arrested over the past month, and a tenth person has reportedly fled to Iran.** These individuals' convictions include attempted murder, aggravated assault, aggravated criminal sexual assault, manslaughter, rape, sexual abuse, lewd and lascivious acts upon a child under 14, receiving stolen property and 1st degree manslaughter. **The Most Wanted list is one of several steps ICE has taken to prioritize criminal threats and focus operational resources where they can be most effective.** The list features foreign nationals from around the globe who have been convicted of committing serious crimes in the United States.
Source: <http://www.bice.immigration.gov/graphics/press/apprehendedfugitive.htm>
22. *July 12, New York Times* — **A web site causes unease in police.** William Sheehan expresses his views about what he calls police corruption in Washington State **on his Web site, where he also posts lists of police officers' addresses, home phone numbers and Social Security numbers.** State officials say those postings expose officers and their families to danger and invite identity theft. But neither litigation nor legislation has stopped Sheehan, who promises to expand his site to include every police and corrections officer in the state by the end of the year. **Sheehan says he obtains the information lawfully, from voter registration, property, motor vehicle and other official records. But his provocative use of personal data raises questions about how the law should address the dissemination of accurate, publicly available information that is selected and made accessible in a way that may facilitate the invasion of privacy, computer crime, even violence.**
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/07/12/national/12NET.html?th>

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Emergency Services Sector

23. *July 15, Associated Press* — **Cities ready sirens as terror warnings.** Cold War-era sirens may be revived as terrorism warnings. Cities including Oklahoma City, Chicago and Dallas

have upgraded their outdoor warning systems with a type of siren that can carry voice announcements – an idea that officials say took on added importance in the post–September 11 world. **Sirens have long been used for storm disasters, but now the Federal Emergency Management Agency is studying whether they can warn people of biological, chemical or nuclear attack.** Thousands of sirens were built across the country during the Cold War to warn citizens in case of nuclear attack, but the federal government stopped the program and the sirens fell silent in many of the nation's largest cities. Other cities put them to use to warn of tornadoes. **But terrorism warnings emerged as a new use for the sirens after September 11. The federal government is currently updating the nation's civil preparedness guide to discuss improved ways of notifying the public of emergencies, and that includes the use of sirens.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A54212-2003Jul 14.html>

24. *July 15, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **FEMA activates regional operations center to monitor Tropical Storm Claudette. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Region 6 headquarters activated its operations center on Monday morning to monitor the progress of Tropical Storm Claudette.** The center serves as the main coordination point between all federal agencies with disaster responsibilities and state and local governments affected by a disaster. It will remain open until the threat of the storm has passed. "FEMA is well prepared to support the state of Texas and communities threatened by Tropical Storm Claudette," said Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Department of Homeland Security. "We urge residents in the storm area to take precautions and heed the warnings of local officials." **Essential federal agency staff has been activated and others are on standby. FEMA liaison officers are also on duty in the Texas and Louisiana state emergency operations centers.**

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=3635>

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

25. *July 14, Arab Times* — **Hacker destroys ten Internet sites.** A Sudanese hacker claimed to have destroyed the Internet websites of 10 major corporations, one of which is the Sudanese Airlines, Al-Sahafa newspaper said Sunday. **The hacker sent an e-mail to Sudanese Airlines saying that by hacking the company webpage he is taking revenge for the families of victims of the plane crash that took place last Tuesday killing 115 passengers.** The hacker claimed to have destroyed the websites of Khartoum University, Aptec Computers and the Sudanese Internet Company. He said he is working on the destruction of more websites.

Source: <http://www.ds-osac.org/view.cfm?key=7E445D42465D&type=2B170C1E0A3A0F162820>

26. *July 14, Reuters* — **Program hijacks PCs to send porn ads. Close to 2,000 Windows-based PCs with high-speed Internet connections have been hijacked by a stealth program and are being used to send ads for pornography,** computer security experts warned. It is unknown exactly how the trojan (dubbed "Migmaf" for "migrant Mafia") is spreading to victim computers around the world, whose owners most likely have no idea what is happening, said Richard M. Smith, a security consultant in Boston. **The trojan turns the victim computer into**

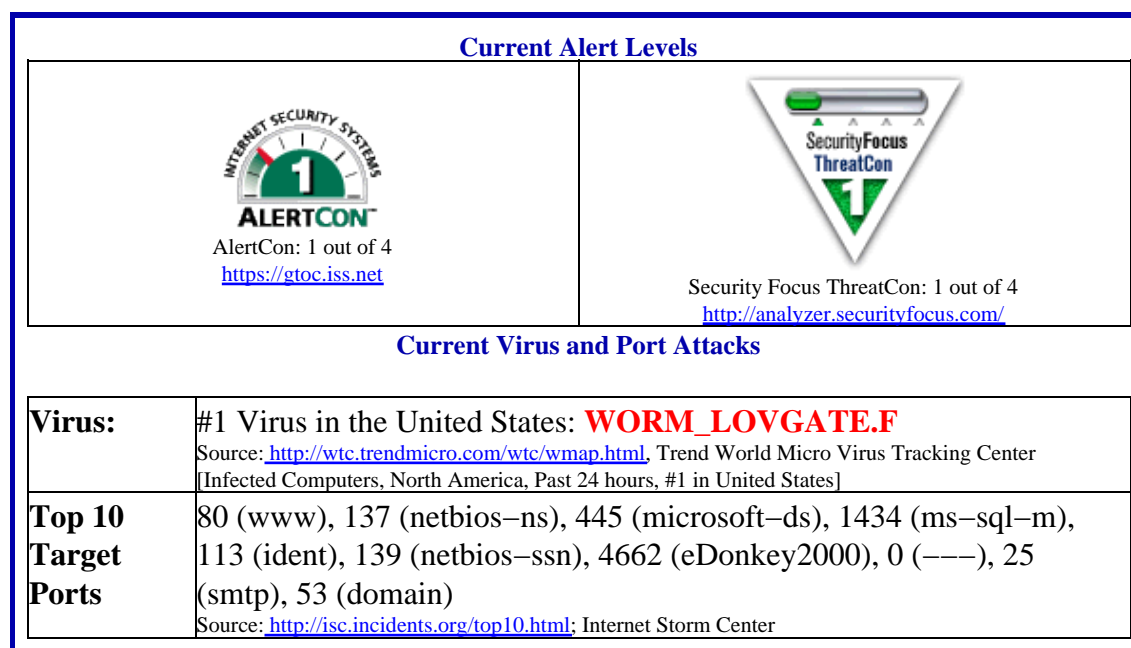
a proxy server which serves as a middle man between people clicking on porn e-mail spam or Web site links, according to Smith. The victim computer acts as a "front" to the porn Web site, enabling the porn Web servers to hide their location, Smith said. **Broadband Internet users should always use firewalls to block such stealth activity**, he said. **Computers with updated anti-virus software will also be protected**, said Lisa Smith of network security company Network Associate's.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/TECH/internet/07/14/porn.backdoor.re.ut/index.html>

27. *July 11, CNET News.com* — **Survey sees tech divide on data disasters. According to a survey released Monday, only 14 percent of senior business executives felt their important data is very vulnerable to being lost in the event of a disaster, compared to 52 percent of senior IT executives.** U.S. business and tech leaders also differ on how long it would take to resume normal business operations if a disaster struck, according to the survey. **Only nine percent of business executives say they would need three days or more to resume, compared to 23 percent of technology executives.** The survey was conducted by RoperASW, a marketing research and consulting firm, and sponsored by data storage company EMC. It polled 274 executives at major U.S. corporations and other large organizations.

Source: http://news.com.com/2100-1009_3-1025121.html?tag=fd_top CNET News.com

Internet Alert Dashboard



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General Sector

28. *July 15, Associated Press* — **Western wildfires force evacuations.** A rampaging 2,000-acre wildfire prompted the evacuation Monday of as many as 700 people on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation in eastern Arizona, authorities said. An Indian Health Service hospital was among the buildings evacuated. Only a crew of eight was left to staff an emergency room. Officials

said more evacuations were possible. **The evacuation was ordered Monday afternoon after the blaze crossed a trigger point near two subdivisions five miles north of Whiteriver, said Chadeen Palmer, a spokeswoman for the crew fighting the fire. The fire was burning out of control Monday evening. It had been sparked by lightning Sunday in juniper and ponderosa pines east of an area burned by last summer's huge Rodeo-Chediski fire.** The Rodeo-Chediski fire burned 469,000 acres, destroyed 491 homes and forced 30,000 people from their homes. On the reservation, the fire charred sacred Apache sites and damaged the White Mountain Apache Tribe's timber industry, which provides 60% of the tribe's income. Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2003-07-14-wildfire_x.htm

29. *July 15, Associated Press* — **Interpol chief warns on terror readiness.** The world's law enforcement agencies still are ill-equipped to block a bioterrorist attack and need governments and research institutions to keep better track of pathogens that can be turned into weapons, according to the head of Interpol, an international organization of police forces. **Interpol Secretary General Ronald K. Noble told an American Bar Association committee Tuesday that governments should pass laws governing the use of pathogens and that universities and researchers should make sure they know everyone working with such potentially dangerous substances.** "This is a threat that demands preventive action," Noble said. "The use of a disease as a weapon would be ... the ultimate crime against humanity." While traditional anti-terrorism defenses involve restricting access to buildings and increasing searches of people and property, such techniques are ineffective against terrorists wielding biological weapons, Noble said. **In addition, Noble said police forces are limited as to how they can track the use and movement of pathogens, since possessing the substances is legal.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/national/AP-Bioterrorism-Threat.html>

30. *July 15, The Battalion Online (Texas A and M)* — **Domestic security tops research agenda.** Texas A&M will make homeland security a priority in research, said Dr. Richard Ewing, A&M's vice president for research, at Monday's Faculty Senate meeting. **The main idea of the Integrated Center for Homeland Security is to bring together the city's emergency centers and coordinate them to work toward a better and safer society, Ewing said. The agencies A&M employs in homeland security, such as Texas Engineering Extension Service, give A&M a breadth that other universities don't have, Ewing said.** Ewing said a memorandum was part of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, which moved to establish one university-based center to target 14 areas of homeland security, including the training of first responders, animal and plant health and diagnostics, food safety and engineering. The memorandum was signed in 2002 to develop a cooperative plan among the University systems in Texas, including University of Texas at Austin, University of Houston, Texas Tech University, University of North Texas and A&M.

Source: <http://www.thebatt.com/vnews/display.v/ART/2003/07/15/3f1385e09f4a3>

31. *July 14, Fox News* — **Study: Canada a potential terrorist haven.** Toronto is home to one of the largest Islamic communities in North America and is widely regarded as one of the world's most ethnically diverse cities. **But critics charge this tolerant and open society has also created an opening for terrorists who have their sights trained across the border at the United States. "Al Qaeda is here," said John Thompson, of the Mackenzie Institute, a Toronto-based think tank. A Mackenzie study released last month found 15 of 80**

identified international terrorist groups, including those responsible for homicide bombings in Israel, have a presence in Canada. The report charges Usama bin Laden's terrorist network extends to at least 25 operatives in Canada and included Ahmed Ressam, who used America's northern neighbor as a base for his millennium bombing plot. Ressam was convicted for his conspiracy to bomb Los Angeles International Airport in December 1999. Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,91884,00.html>

32. *July 12, BBC News* — **Muslim call to thwart capitalism.** An Islamic conference in the Spanish city of Granada has called on Muslims around the world to help bring about the end of the capitalist system. The call came at a conference titled 'Islam in Europe' attended by about 2,000 Muslims. **The keynote speaker at the conference was Umar Ibrahim Vadillo, leader of the worldwide Muslim group known as Murabitun. The group is strongly opposed to capitalism. Vadillo said America's economic interests had become the religion of the world and that people slavishly adjusted their lifestyles to suit the capitalist model. But he said capitalism cannot sustain itself and is bound to collapse. Vadillo, a Spanish Muslim, called on all followers of Islam to stop using western currencies such as the dollar, the pound and the euro and instead to return to the use of the gold dinar.** He said the introduction of the gold dinar to the world's economies would be the single most unifying event for Muslims in the modern era. Shortly afterwards, he said, the capitalist structure would quickly fall and it would make the Wall Street crash of 1929 seem minor by comparison. Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/3061833.stm>

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